

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
August 26, 2009; 4:30 p.m.
Council Chambers**

PRESENT

Gil Palmer
John Roberts
Greg Lewis
Trena Carter
Akua Agyei
John Stroh
Shiva Rallapalli

ABSENT

Ian Kohen
Tony McClendon
Rosalind Pegram

STAFF PRESENT:

Director Arlette Cooper Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Secretary Roberts presented the roll call.

**Commissioner Stroh moved that the June Minutes be approved as presented.
Commissioner Rallapalli seconded. June Minutes were approved.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Agyei reported that the balance on the Donations Account for July was \$7,104.80 and the balance as of August was \$7,354.80 due to a deposit of \$250 for annual dinner ticket payment from Ivy Tech.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

No Report for this month.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Tinsley reported that she was invited by Dr. Fredricka Joyner to have her presentation on changing demographics in Columbus videotaped for Dr. Joyner's IUPUC online class. Director Tinsley also reported that the Commission is seeing more housing cases and less mediation possibly due to the downturn in the economy, prompting businesses to be less likely to settle the case. Consequently, staff is engaged in more investigative work.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **CAMEO Presentation by Kenan Al-Husseini:**

Kenan Al-Husseini, Chair of CAMEO the Columbus Area Multi-Ethnic Organization, a welcoming community initiative of the Heritage Fund, provided the Commission with a presentation on the work of CAMEO thus far. Lyn Morgan, Program Officer of the Heritage Fund was present also. Kenan provided the Commission with background about the formation of CAMEO, the CAMEO website development and the various founding associations which make up CAMEO. Kenan informed the Commission that CAMEO will have its official community launch on September 14, 2009 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the Cal Brand Meeting Room in City Hall. After the presentation, Commissioners commented positively on the work of CAMEO and asked for additional information regarding the various membership levels and at which levels members can vote or serve on committees and the board. Kenan asked the Commissioners for constructive feedback on the presentation to help with other presentations which will be provided at the community launch of CAMEO. Some of the feedback included increasing the font size, selling the partnerships, condensing some of the information and including a slide about the website. Commissioners were encouraged to attend the launch. In addition, Kenan asked for a formal endorsement from the Commission. The Commission gave its full support of CAMEO and completed the CAMEO Partner application as a member of CAMEO.

Commissioner Stroh moved that the Commission become a Partner member of CAMEO. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carter and was unanimously approved.

- **Spelling Bee:** Lyn Morgan gave the Commissioners an overview of a fundraiser to support literacy. The fundraiser, a spelling bee, is spearheaded by the Heritage Fund but is also sponsored by the Bartholomew County Literacy Task Force. After describing some of the dire statistics about illiteracy in Bartholomew County, Lyn encouraged the commissioners to field a team and participate. Fielding a team would cost \$100. Director Tinsley reported that she checked with the City Clerk-Treasurer and the Commission can pay for the team out of the Donations Account, the non-reverting fund. Commissioners Rallapalli, Palmer, Roberts and Lewis volunteered to participate as the Human Rights Commission's team. The name of the team will be the "Human Righters." The Bee will be held at St. Bartholomew School Cafeteria from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on September 22nd.
- **Lambda Legal Fundraiser:** Commissioner Roberts reported that he hosted a Lambda Legal fundraiser at his home. He stated that the fundraiser was on his own personal time and not connected to the Commission. Commissioner Roberts announced that Lambda will host its Annual Dinner in Indianapolis at the Marriott and he has tickets if anyone is interested in attending. Commissioner Roberts will send info to Director Tinsley which can be forwarded out to Commissioners.
- **Budget:** Director Tinsley reported on the state of the City Budget. She stated that the Mayor is moving forward with cost-cutting initiatives that may include combining Human Resource functions to the duties for the Commission Director. Director Tinsley reported that the Commission will maintain its authority to hire and

fire for the position of Director of the Human Rights Commission. Discussion continued on the possible impact of the change.

LIAISON UPDATES – INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY COALITION:

Commissioner Stroh provided the Commission with an update which included a request for a \$300 grant from the Inclusive Community Coalition. The grant request was to help support the Coalition's community program called, "Same Sex Marriage comes to the Heartland", which will be held in March 2010. The request to the Commission was moved up because the Coalition's grant request was cut by the Heritage Fund and they needed to know how much the Commission could award. Commissioner Stroh stated that the Coalition also trimmed its budget. The request to the Commission is \$100 more than initially requested. After discussion of the Commission's availability of funds and other considerations, **Commissioner Lewis moved that the Commission approve the grant request in the amount of \$300 per the Coalition's written grant request submitted to the Commission. The motion was seconded by Commission Agyei and the motion was unanimously approved.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Lewis seconded. Meeting adjourned.